

Rabbi
Wiesenfeld
ON THE
PARSHAH

A Collection of
Short and Inspiring Thoughts
on the Weekly Parshah



**THIS SEFER HAS BEEN
DEDICATED L'ILUI NISHMAS:**

Avrohom ben Shimshon Z'L Lelansky

Basha Meryl bas Pinchos A'H Lelansky

Chaim Ben Yehuda Yosef Z'L Dorfman

May the insights gained from this wonderful book
be a *zechus* for them.



Rabbi Zev Leff

Rabbi of Moshav Matityahu
Rosh HaYeshiva—Yeshiva Gedola Matityahu

הרב זאב לף

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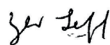
Dear Friends,

I have read portions of the book "On the Parshah" by Rabbi Avi Wiesenfeld. The book contains insights on the weekly Torah portions as well as on the various holidays. The presentations contain ideas that are powerful yet pragmatic and adaptable to the realities of day to day Torah living. Each lesson is accompanied by a story that conveys the idea in a very tangible manner.

I found this work interesting, enlightening, and inspiring. The messages are easily read and capable of being internalized.

I commend the author for a quality presentation and pray that Hashem bless him and his family with life, health and the wherewithal to continue to merit the community in his many and varied ways.

Sincerely,
With Torah blessings.



Rabbi Zev Leff

הרב שרגא פייבל הלוי זיממערמאן
רב ואב"ד

17th June 2022

Rabbi Avi Wiesenfeld has already achieved renown for his expertise, knowledge and clarity in the presentation of relevant halachic topics through his many previous seforim, including Kashrus in the Kitchen and various booklets.

I have been told that he is about to publish a new sefer Shabbos in the Kitchen, and that it has been reviewed by numerous Talmidei Chachomim. Although I have not myself reviewed the sefer, I have no doubt that it is consistent with the standard of his previous seforim and that both the beginner and the experienced will have much to learn from its contents.

Wishing Rabbi Wiesenfeld much brocho and hatzlocho.



Rabbi S.F. Zimmerman

Av Beis Din and Rov of the Federation



FOREWORD

The book I present to you today is a compilation of the weekly Parshah Videos in a tangible and easy to read format which you can enjoy reading at your Shabbos table. The short Parshah *shiurim* started seven years ago as a simple audio which I would send to the boys in Yeshiva during *bein ha'zmanim*. I was passionate about sharing an idea from the Parshah so that the boys could discuss it with their families each week. Additionally this enabled the boys to remain connected and continue growing even outside the official walls of the Yeshiva. When the boys returned to Yeshiva, I was asked by people who had somehow heard the weekly recordings, if I could continue producing the Parshah lessons. Thus, the weekly Parshah Shiurim was born!

Shortly after, the simple recordings were upgraded to a professional video clip which is currently sent around weekly to thousands of participants. The goal of these videos is to bring the Parshah to life in a way that is very practical and meaningful. I aim to bring out simple yet profound lessons from the Parshah, oftentimes illustrating my point with a story or anecdote. In this way, the message of the week can be internalized and become a real part of your lives.

As we know the Torah is an ancient source with timely messages. When we apply these nuggets of wisdom to our lives they will create very significant changes in our perspectives and understanding of life. When we navigate our interpersonal relationships, and our personal relationship with Hashem, through the wisdom which the Torah provides, we will find ourselves living a more authentic existence while embracing all aspects of our humanity.

It is my sincere hope and prayer that you will find lasting *chizuk*, encouragement, and relevant lessons that you can apply to your daily lives. As you read this book, may the history of our holy ancestors become alive and meaningful, and may the Torah continue to be our guiding light throughout all aspects of our lives.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Firstly, I would like to thank the incredible boys of Yeshivas Beis Dovid for being the springboard of the launching of this wonderful book. They continue to be the catalyst which encourages me to dig deep for wellsprings of inspiration which will be relevant to today's challenging times. This helps to bring out the enormous potential that is waiting to burst into action in the current generation.

I would like to thank Mrs Rifky Wajchman for transcribing the entire works of this book. It is never easy to take a *shiur* and do it adequate justice by transferring my passionate feeling with which I give the talk, into words on a page. I thank you for your dedication and incredible effort in producing this book.

A special *yasher koach* to Reb Yisroel Shaw, whom I've had the *zechus* and pleasure of working with for so many years. In addition to this book, he has edited many of my other *sefarim* which have been published over the years. His expertise in polishing up and making sure that each point is clearly relayed through the writing is legendary.

Thank you Reb Yaakov Greenberg for your professional work editing the weekly videos. You bring the lessons I speak of to life through the dynamic graphics and background music which greatly enhance the *shiurim*.

A big thank you to all the listeners and participants of this exciting inspiring initiative. Your regular feedback gives me the strength to continue producing these *shiurim*. Seeing the profound impact these videos have has encouraged me to keep going, despite my busy vigorous daily schedule.

Thank you Torahanytime for being the most incredible platform for spreading Torah like never before. Through your state of the art website I am able to teach Torah to fellow *yidden* worldwide. You have gifted the Jewish world by making so many topics of Torah accessible to

literally everyone, wherever they may find themselves.

No words will ever be sufficient to thank my dear wife and children for their incredible patience, allowing me to do what I do for the *Klal*. Their consistent dedication and involvement in the Yeshiva, giving up much of their own personal family time, goes so far allowing the boys to grow and flourish in a way that would simply not be possible without them. May Hashem repay you for your unbelievable selflessness and constant input with all my endeavours.

Last but not least, I would like to express my deepest debt of *hakoras hatov* to the Ribbono Shel Olom. It is my *zechus* that Hashem has enabled me the gift of helping inspire His precious children across the globe.

I sincerely hope that the lessons learnt from this book enable people to develop a closer relationship with Hashem, being true examples of what it means to lead a life according to Torah values. I *daven* that Hashem continue to give me the *kochos hanefesh* to be one of His facilitators, drawing out inspiration and *chizuk* from the eternal wisdom and depth of His holy Torah.

Rabbi Avi Weisenfeld
Yerushalayim Ir Hakodesh
Elul 5784, September 2024

פרשת בראשית
PARSHAS BEREISHIS

PARSHAS BEREISHIS

Man's greatest gift

This week, as we begin the reading of the Torah again with Parshas Bereishis, we have a new opportunity to look at the lessons that the Ribono Shel Olam wants to teach us in His Torah.

One of the focal points in the Parshah is the very first sin ever committed. As soon as Adam and Chavah were created and allowed entry into Gan Eden, they were given the commandment to refrain from eating from the Eitz ha'Da'as. They failed to observe that commandment, and until today all of mankind is suffering from the ramifications of that transgression. What caused them to do it? Having just been created, with an awesome awareness of the Creator that we cannot fathom, why did they sin?

The Torah relates that it was the *nachash*, the snake, that provoked them to sin. The punishment the snake received was that for the rest of its life and the life of all of its descendants, the snake would be destined to eat from the dust of the earth. Can you imagine being condemned to a lifetime of having nothing to eat but tasteless, dirty food? What a terrible curse!

On second thought, was this really such a bad thing? Perhaps it was not such a terrible punishment after all. Although the snake's food would be unvaried and tasteless, the snake has a great benefit in that its sustenance is readily available for it at all times. The snake is guaranteed a lifetime of food at its disposal without having to worry or work hard for it. The snake will never go hungry! What type of curse is this?

Rav Shmuel Alter *zt"l*, in *Lekutei Basar Lekutei*, explains that the curse of the snake was in fact a terrible curse, since it denied the snake the most precious gift, the invaluable ability of having a relationship with the Ribono Shel Olam. By having its sustenance provided to it and constantly available at all times, the snake never had to turn to Hashem. The snake would always have what it needed and would have no need to

ask anything from its Creator. This was the worst possible curse for anyone or anything to receive. It was like the Ribono Shel Olam turned to the snake and said, “Here, take your food and never speak to Me again.”

A number of years ago I was renting an apartment in Yerushalayim. One morning before the rent was due, I received a phone call from the landlord asking me to pay the rent. He did the same every month until I realized that it would be easier for me to pay him three months' rent up front, and then I wouldn't need to hear from him for a few months.

That is not what the Ribono Shel Olam wants from us. Hashem gives us a life full of challenges, specifically so that we will constantly feel the need to ask Him for His help and thereby form a relationship with Him which deepens each time we turn to Him. He gives us trials and tribulations so that we will talk to Him. The curse that Hashem gave the snake was indeed the worst form of curse. The loss of a relationship with its Creator far outweighed the convenience of having its sustenance provided at all times. Although undergoing challenges is tremendously difficult and oftentimes painful, when we look back at those times and see how much closer we grew to Hashem, and what we gained by turning to Him and subsequently relying and trusting in Him, we realize that the challenges were not in vain. Let us utilize this special gift we have and reap all of the benefits from the unique closeness we develop through turning to Hashem for all our needs.